THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The names of the edible oils imported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-Nov.99) are:

Soyabean crude oil whether or not degummed, Soyabean oil and its fractions, Ground nut oil and others, Crude Palm oil and its fractions, Refined Palm oil and its fractions, Sunflower Seed oil crude, Safflower seed oil (Kardi seed crude), Sunflower seed oil, safflower seed oil, Crude Palm kernel/babassu oil and its fractions, Refined Palm Kernel/ babassu oil and its fractions, Crude rape seed oil, Refined rape seed oil, Other Maize (Corn) and its fractions, Sesame oil and its fraction, Rice bran oil and Groundnut oil.

Source: DGCI-and S

(b) and (c) Data on demand of edible oils and production is compiled on oil-year basis i.e. November to October. The relevant figures for the last three years are as follows:

(In Lakh MT)

Year (Nov.-Oct.)	Net availability of Edible Oils from domestic sources	Consumption/ Requirement
1997-98	62.00	82.83
1998-99	72.60	116.53
1999-2000 (till June)	63.30	108.74

(Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

Separate Export—Import Policy for NER

1559. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government for finalizing a separate Export-Import Policy from the NER and development of

infrastructure including EPZ for promotion of trade with countries bordering NER;

(b) whether specific study made by IIFT in the matter has been taken into consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of the proposals for reopening of the old Still-Well Road, as recommended in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Government does not formulate a region specific Export & Import Policy. However, keeping in view the special requirements of the North Eastern Region (NER), the Government has taken certain steps to promote trade and related infrastructural developments. This includes setting up of an "Export Development Fund (EDF)" to support the activities aimed at pomoting exports from NER. Further, under the Critical infrastructure Balance Scheme, some projects have been sanctioned for infrastructure for promotion of trade with bordering countries. Under the Prime Minister's package announced in Shillong on 20.01.2000, the Government is developing four border towns namely Moreh, Sutarkandi, Dawky and Zokhawthar on priority basis. Besides, with a view to strengthening marketing infrastructure and expertise required for export promotion in NER, the Government gives double weightage on exports of products manufactured in NER for the purpose of grant of status like Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House. The recommendations made by the IIFT, based on their study of the export potential of NER, have been taken into account by the Government while considering the infrastructure development for exports for the NER.

(d) The need for development of the Stillwell road from Ledo in Assam to Pangsu Pass on the Indo-Myanmar border is under consideration of the Government.